

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11392 271341Z

43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3517

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 11392

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, IN, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN LIBRARY IN BANGALORE

REF: STATE 104450; DELHI 11391

1. FOR SOME TIME WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF OPENING A USIS LIBRARY IN BANGALORE. I NOW RECOMMEND THAT WE OFFICIALLY PROPOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA THAT WE DO SO AND BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY.

2. I CONSIDER THAT THE BENEFITS TO THE USIS PROGRAM IN OPENING A LIBRARY ARE CLEAR. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT USIS' EXCELLENT LIBRARIES, THROUGH THE THICK AND THIN OF THE INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP, HAVE BEEN A STABILIZING AND POSITIVE FACTOR, THE FULL VALUE OF WHICH NO ONE WILL EVER BE ABLE TO QUANTIFY.

3. THERE IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNE RELEVENCE OF OUR LIBRARY PROPOSAL TO THE CURRENT TREND IN OUR POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND THE SECRETARY'S COMING VISIT HERE, PROVIDING OUR TIMING IS RIGHT. SINCE FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH HAS INFORMALLY SIGNALLED THAT HE LOOKS FAVORABLY ON THE IDEA, I INTEND TO LET HIM KNOW FORMALLY NOW THAT WE WANT TO GO AHEAD.

4. THIS SHOULD BE DONE WITHOUT DELAY SO THAT USIS AND ICCR CAN

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 11392 271341Z

GET THE NECESSARY SPADE WORK DONE IN TIME TO PERMIT ANNOUNCE-

MENT OF OUR INTENTION DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, SHOULD HE
AGREE TO DO SO.

5. AS TO THE DESIRABILITY OF ANNOUNCING AN AMERICAN LIBRARY
FOR BANGALORE DURING THAT VISIT, I RECOMMEND IT. THE LIBRARY
MAY LOOK LIKE A PICAYUNE MATTER BACK HOME, BUT IT WOULD BE
NOTABLE EVENT FOR THE THREE AND ONE-THIRD MILLION PEOPLE OF
THE BANGALORE AREA AND FOR SOUTH INDIA IN GENERAL. MOREOVER, I
WOULD HAZARD A GUESS THAT PARLIAMENTARIANS AND OFFICIALS IN
DELHI ITSELF WOULD INTERPRET THE PROJECT AS ANOTHER INITIATIVE
TO IMPROVE INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

6. THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE; MAY I HAVE AN EARLY REPLY?
MOYNIHAN

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